

# Setting New Zealand's post-2020 climate change target

## Submission form

The Government is seeking views on New Zealand's post-2020 climate change contribution under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

You can have your say by making a submission using this form or using the online tool available at [www.mfe.govt.nz/more/consultations](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/more/consultations).

For more information about this consultation:

- Read our [Consultation on New Zealand's post-2020 international climate change contribution web page](#)
- Read our discussion document: [New Zealand's Climate Change Target: Our contribution to the new international climate change agreement](#)

**Submissions close at 5.00pm on Wednesday 3 June 2015.**

## Publishing and releasing submissions

All or part of any written submission (including names of submitters), may be published on the Ministry for the Environment's website [www.mfe.govt.nz](http://www.mfe.govt.nz). Unless you clearly specify otherwise in your submission, we will consider that you have consented to website posting of both your submission and your name.

Contents of submissions may be released to the public under the Official Information Act 1982 following requests to the Ministry for the Environment (including via email). Please advise if you have any objection to the release of any information contained in a submission and, in particular, which part(s) you consider should be withheld, together with the reason(s) for withholding the information. We will take into account all such objections when responding to requests for copies of, and information on, submissions to this consultation under the Official Information Act.

The Privacy Act 1993 applies certain principles about the collection, use and disclosure of information about individuals by various agencies, including the Ministry for the Environment. It governs access by individuals to information about themselves held by agencies. Any personal information you supply to the Ministry in the course of making a submission will be used by the Ministry only in relation to the matters covered by this consultation. Please clearly indicate in your submission if you do not wish your name to be included in any summary of submissions that the Ministry may publish.

## Questions to guide your feedback

Your submission may address any aspect of the discussion document, but we would appreciate you paying particular attention to the questions posed throughout and listed in this form. You may answer some or all of the questions. To ensure your point of view is clearly understood, you should explain your rationale and provide supporting evidence where appropriate.

### Contact information

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### Objectives for the contribution

1a. We have set the following three objectives for our contribution:

- it is seen as a fair and ambitious contribution – both by international and domestic audiences
- costs and impacts on society are managed appropriately
- it must guide New Zealand over the long term in the global transition to a low emissions world.

Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution?

- Yes  
 No

1b. What is most important to you?

That New Zealand takes a leadership role and lives up to its clean green image which is part of our promotion and marketing around the world. We need to live up to our image by reducing emissions and pollution. To do this we need a low-carbon economy based on smart sustainable solutions for everyone. Sustainability is the key – social, environmental and economic sustainability.

### What would be a fair contribution for New Zealand?

**2. What do you think the nature of New Zealand's emissions and economy means for the level of target that we set?**

We need targets that are based on scientific evidence. The targets must show that we are making a fair and equitable contribution that reinforces our reputation and promoted image. This means that we need to aim for 100% renewable energy, a reduction in fossil fuel use, seeking alternatives for other natural resources which are depleting, and clean air and water. A speedy response is needed to get things started and to ensure we meet our targets.

## How will our contribution affect New Zealanders?

**3. What level of cost is appropriate for New Zealand to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions? For example, what do you think would be a reasonable impact on annual household consumption?**

If we align our spending to a low carbon economy, we will find savings and efficiencies that should see a reduction in household consumption on a yearly basis. There are opportunities for efficiency which have been shown by other countries taking bold steps towards their ambitious targets. We should do more with the capability and capacity we have.

**4. Of the opportunities for New Zealand to reduce its emissions (as outlined on page 15 of the discussion document), which do you think are the most likely to occur, or be most important for New Zealand?**

We have already started on some of the items in the list and we need to continue them. Others are just starting and need to be progressed further. Why do we have to prioritise – let's build on what we have already started. If I were to prioritise – 100% renewable energy and EVs, followed by increased forestry.

We already have forests which have benefits in reducing GHG emissions so our GHG and forestry inventory should tell us what more needs to be done to further help reduce GHG emissions. We already have about 80% renewable energy production so transitioning to 100% is not too far a step. As we set our aim for 100% renewable energy, working on a transition to EVs and hybrids will have huge benefits since we are more ready than other countries. The more EVs and hybrid vehicles are produced, the more affordable they become. Using EVs and hybrids also helps with a low carbon economy. A low carbon economy will reduce our dependency on oil and its derivatives and make us less vulnerable to supply disruptions and price volatility.

Reducing emissions for businesses should be seen as an opportunity rather than a burden. Sustainability gives savings and benefits to all.

## Summary

**5. How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its target?**

Accounting for future costs based on the uncertainties of future technologies is going to be very difficult. We can only assume that technology changes will come faster and be most likely better than expected. As stated in the discussion document, some will be easier to predict than others. Investing in more research for others, such as agricultural emissions, will give better predictions.

## Other comments

### 6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.

Further considerations –

- Have a cross party consensus on targets and plans since it is not a one party issue. It is about our reputation and our pride in the environment which are at stake if we become a follower with lower targets. Be bold, be brave and set ambitious targets.
- Establish a responsible body that operates beyond electoral cycles and is independent of parties. There needs to be continuity of work towards achieving targets which is not governed by electoral cycles.
- Remove fossil fuel businesses from investment portfolios that are government owned or controlled. Investing in fossil fuel businesses is perpetuating GHG emissions.
- Be a leader in reducing GHG emissions and dependency on fossil fuels so that our continued promotion of our clean, green image is believable. This will only further enhance our tourism and export markets. Let's keep our reputation intact.
- Ensure that our future generations do not have to carry the burden of responsibility to reduce emissions and dependency on fossil fuels. Invest in smart technologies that reduce our dependency on fossil fuels.
- Invest and restore our indigenous biodiversity, such as the Permanent Forest Sink Initiative which can then be used to offset emissions. It would also increase iconic destinations for tourists.

## When your submission is complete

Email your completed submission to [climate.contribution@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:climate.contribution@mfe.govt.nz) or post to Climate Change Contribution Consultation, Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143.

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